

Claim Amendments

1. (Currently amended) A head suspension assembly comprising:
an air bearing slider having at least one transducer mounted thereon for transducing data that is recorded and read out from a surface of a rotating magnetic disc;
a single ~~integral planar~~ piece of material comprising:
a load beam section formed with a narrowed end;
a flexure section having a shaped opening which defines two flexure beams that extend in a longitudinal direction from said narrowed end of said load beam section, said flexure section further including a transverse section spaced in said longitudinal direction from said load beam section, said transverse section connecting said flexure beams;
a load point tongue extending from said narrowed end of said load beam section into said shaped opening such that said flexure beams and load point tongue lie substantially in the same plane, said load point tongue being disposed substantially between said flexure beams and having a free end within said shaped opening, said load point tongue having a load supporting protrusion;
said air bearing slider being bonded to said transverse section and in contact with said load supporting protrusion ~~such that load transfer from said air bearing slider to said single integral planar piece is effectively separated from the~~
~~gimballing action of said air bearing slider.~~
2. (Previously amended) An assembly as in claim 1, wherein said air bearing slider has a top non-air bearing surface attached to said transverse section.

Claims 3-5 (canceled)

6. (Previously amended) An assembly as in claim 2, wherein said air bearing slider is about 0.0110 inch high, 0.0400 inch long and 0.0200-0.0260 inch wide.

7. (Previously amended) An assembly as in claim 2, wherein said top non-air bearing surface is formed with a platform and a step adjacent to said platform.

8. (Previously amended) An assembly as in claim 7, wherein said platform is about 0.0336 inch long and said step is about 0.0015 inch high.

9. (Previously amended) An assembly as in claim 1, wherein said load beam section and said transverse section have a first thickness.

10. (Previously amended) An assembly as in claim 9, wherein said load supporting protrusion is hemispherical in shape.

11. (Previously amended) An assembly as in claim 9, wherein said flexure beams have a second thickness which is thinner than said first thickness.

12. (Previously amended) An assembly as in claim 1, wherein said flexure beams are substantially parallel to said longitudinal direction so that said shaped opening is substantially U-shaped.

13. (Previously amended) An assembly as in claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 or 12, wherein said load beam section has a rear end opposite said narrowed end, and further including:

a leaf spring section attached at a first end to said rear end of said load beam section, said leaf spring section providing a load force to said air bearing slider through said load supporting protrusion; and

a mount section attached to a second end of said leaf spring section for attachment to an actuator arm.

14. (Previously amended) An assembly as in claim 13, further including a swage plate joined to said mount section for attachment to said actuator arm.

15. (Previously amended) An assembly as in claim 1, wherein said load beam section has first and second sides, at least one of said sides having a flange integral therewith.

16. (Previously amended) An assembly as in claim 15, wherein said flange comprises a channel which accommodates an electrical wire.

17. (Previously amended) An assembly as in claim 13, wherein said leaf spring section includes a trapezoidal-like opening.

18. (Previously amended) An assembly as in claim 1, wherein said load supporting protrusion is located along a centerline of said air bearing slider.

19. (Currently amended) An assembly as in claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 or 12, further including a damping element attached to said load beam section ~~which reduces resonance.~~

20. (Previously amended) An assembly as in claim 15, further including at least one load/unload tab formed on at least one of said sides of said load beam section.

21. (Original) An assembly as in claim 2, wherein said top non-air bearing surface is substantially flat.

22. (Previously amended) An assembly as in claim 21, wherein said transverse section including bent sections for attachment to said air bearing slider.

23. (Previously presented) An assembly as in claim 1 wherein said load point protrusion is offset a distance from a centerline extending between said flexure beams.

24. (Previously presented) An assembly as in claim 23 wherein said distance is greater than zero inches, but less than or equal to 0.006 inches.

Claims 25-35 (canceled).

Status of Claims / Support for Claim Changes

Original Patent Claim 1 (Currently amended) Support for the changes made to claim 1 is found throughout the specification and drawings. For example, the embodiments of Figures 1A-14C clearly show a flexure section wherein the flexure beams and load point tongue lie substantially in the same plane. In addition, column 3, lines 63-67 of the specification state that the load beam section, flexure section, as well as the leaf spring section and rear mount section, "are disposed substantially in a single plane."

Original Patent Claims 3-5 (canceled).

Original Patent Claims 2, 6-18, 20-22 (previously amended).

Original Patent Claim 19 (Currently amended) The extraneous phrase "which reduces resonance" has been deleted from the claim.

Claims 23-24 (previously presented).

Claims 25-35 (canceled).